

CLAIMS

- [001] A dishwasher comprising at least one washing container for receiving items to be cleaned and a system for recognition of the fluid level (9) of the washing fluid contained in the dishwasher, characterised in that at least one capacitive filling level sensor (4) is provided whose electrical capacitance changes depending on the height of the fluid level (9).
- [002] The dishwasher according to claim 1, wherein the filling level sensor (4) is constructed in the fashion of a capacitor whose electrical capacitance varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the filling level sensor (4).
- [003] The dishwasher according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the filling level sensor (4) especially reacts to the relative dielectric constant of water.
- [004] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filling level sensor (4) comprises at least one, e.g. two opposite active sensor surfaces (10) at which an electromagnetic field can be formed which varies as a function of the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the sensor surfaces (10).
- [005] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filling level sensor (4) is located outside the washing container and the filling level sensor (4) or its sensor surfaces (10) is isolated from the rinsing liquid preferably by the wall (2) of the washing container.
- [006] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one sensor probe (8) made of electrically conducting material is provided inside the washing container and an electromagnetic field can be formed between the sensor probe (8) and the filling level sensor (4), wherein the electromagnetic field varies depending on the height of the liquid level (9) or varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the sensor probe (8).

- [007] The dishwasher according to claim 6, wherein the at least one sensor probe (8) is arranged so that it is separate with respect to an active sensor surface (10) of the filling level sensor (4) preferably by the wall (2) of the washing container (2).
- [008] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor (4) and its variation is detected preferably qualitatively and quantitatively using electrical means (5, 6, 7).
- [009] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein electronic storage means are provided in which at least one reference value can be stored which corresponds to an electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor (4) at a specific fluid level (9).
- [010] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a certain limiting value of the electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor (4) is specified to discriminate between whether the filling level sensor (4) is located in the proximity of a medium having a high or low dielectric constant or whether the filling level sensor (4) is surrounded by an aqueous fluid or by air.